

Application No. 10/767,988
Amendment Dated
Reply to Office Action of October 13, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Figures 6 and 7

Attachment: Replacement Sheets for Figures 6-8

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes to Figures 6 and 7.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 6-22 and 24-25 remain in the application. Only Claim 1 is in independent form.

The Oath or Declaration has been identified as defective because typographical errors in the spelling of the names of two co-inventors have been altered yet the alterations not initialed and dated. In response thereto, the Applicant submits herewith a new Oath or Declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.67(a) and signed by the two affected co-inventors Nash and Shah. The Oath or Declaration is not defective with respect to the other seven co-inventors, and therefore the Applicant submits herewith a supplemental Oath or Declaration identifying the entire inventive entity but signed only by the two inventors to whom the error or deficiencies relate, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.67(a)(2).

The drawings are objected to for numerous reasons. Firstly, the reference number "18" is used to designate both steering guides and steering tubes. The Applicant has addressed this situation by amending the specification to consistently use the term "guide rod" instead of the term "steering guide" or "steering tube". Appropriate correction has been made to paragraphs 20-22, 26, 28-29 and 35.

The drawings are also objected to because they do not depict the reference numbers "102" and "126". Appropriate correction has been made by inserting into Figure 6 the reference number 102, and by inserting into Figure 7 the reference number 126. Attached herewith are replacement sheets for Figures 6-8. Also attached are annotated sheets showing the changes to Figures 6 and 7 as described above.

The drawings also are objected to because, in Figure 7, reference character 172 for the pyrotechnic device does not appear any different from what is described and shown in Figure 8

and represented with reference character 168. The Applicant respectfully submits that this is not a drawing issue. The difference between views depicted in Figures 7 and 8 is that reference character 172 refers to the pyrotechnic devices *per se*, which are placed into the chambers 168. The chambers 168 are shown empty in Figure 8. Thus, the pyrotechnic devices 172 are not depicted in Figure 8, as having been removed for clarity.

It is respectfully submitted that the corrections to the specification and the drawing figures, together with the clarifying description relating to Figures 6 and 8, are sufficient to overcome all of the drawing objections. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the drawings, as amended, are now presented in condition for allowance.

The specification is objected to for various informalities. In particular, paragraphs 5A-G in the Office Action identify numerous informalities. In each instance, the Applicant has attempted to comply precisely with the Examiner's suggestions. With regard to paragraph 5E, the Applicant has attempted to better describe the S-, M-, and J- straps which comprise part of the energy absorbing mechanism. If the amendments made to paragraph 30 herein are not sufficient to address the Examiner's concerns, the Applicant will be glad to consider alternative approaches.

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that the objections directed toward the disclosure have all been overcome, and that the disclosure is now presented in condition for allowance.

The Claims stand objected to for various informalities. In each instance, the Applicant has attempted to comply precisely with the helpful suggestions set forth in the Office Action. With regard to Claim 23, the Applicant has elected to simply cancel the claim. Accordingly, it is

respectfully submitted that all of the objections to the Claims, as noted in the Office Action, have been overcome.

Furthermore, Claims 7-25 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Concerning Claim 7, the Applicant has overcome the indefinite aspects by deleting the problematic text. Claim 21 has been amended to clarify the relationship between the energy absorber system and the related components specified in the Claim. Claim 22 has been amended to introduce antecedent basis for the upper block.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, have been overcome by way of the amendments presented here in connection with Claims 7, 21 and 22.

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b), as being anticipated by Guiard et al. The Office Action indicates that Claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim (Claim 1) and any intervening claims. The Applicant has herein amended Claim 1 to include all of the limitations of allowable Claim 5, together with intervening Claims 2 and 3. Intervening Claim 4 remains a dependent claim. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection based on anticipation in view of Guiard et al. has been overcome.

The Applicant has attempted in every instance to comply with suggestions and concerns raised in the Office Action dated October 13, 2005. It is respectfully submitted that the Application, as amended, is now presented in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited.

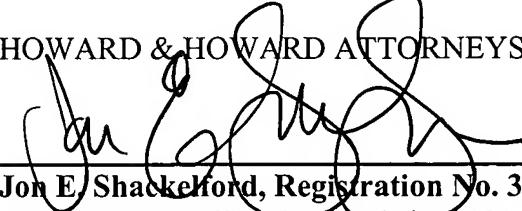
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The Patent Office is authorized to charge or refund any fee deficiency or excess to
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Respectfully submitted,

HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.

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Date



Jon E. Shackelford, Registration No. 36,003
The Pinehurst Office Center, Suite #101
39400 Woodward Avenue
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48304-5151
(734) 222-1098

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REPLACEMENT SHEET
ANNOTATED

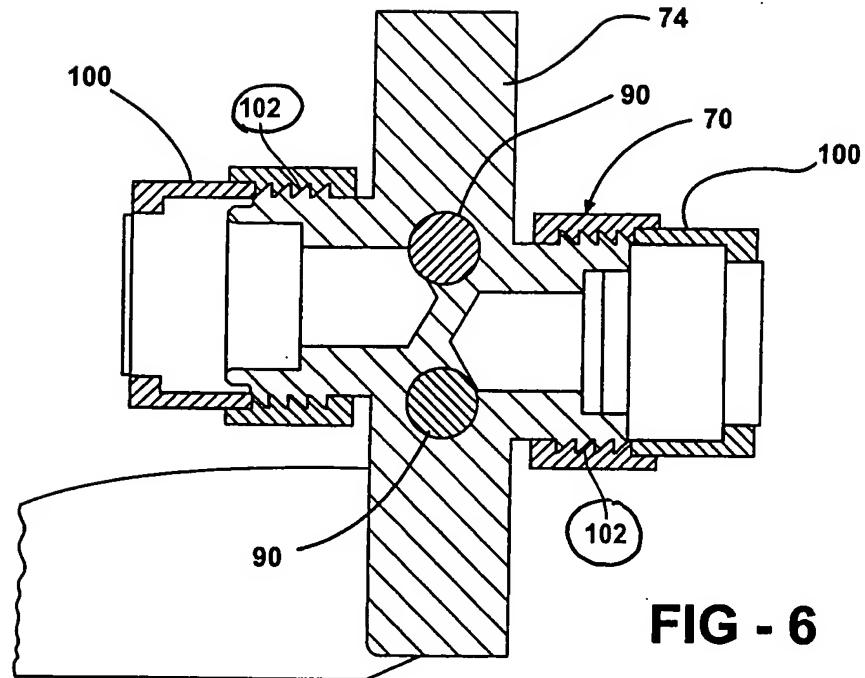


FIG - 6

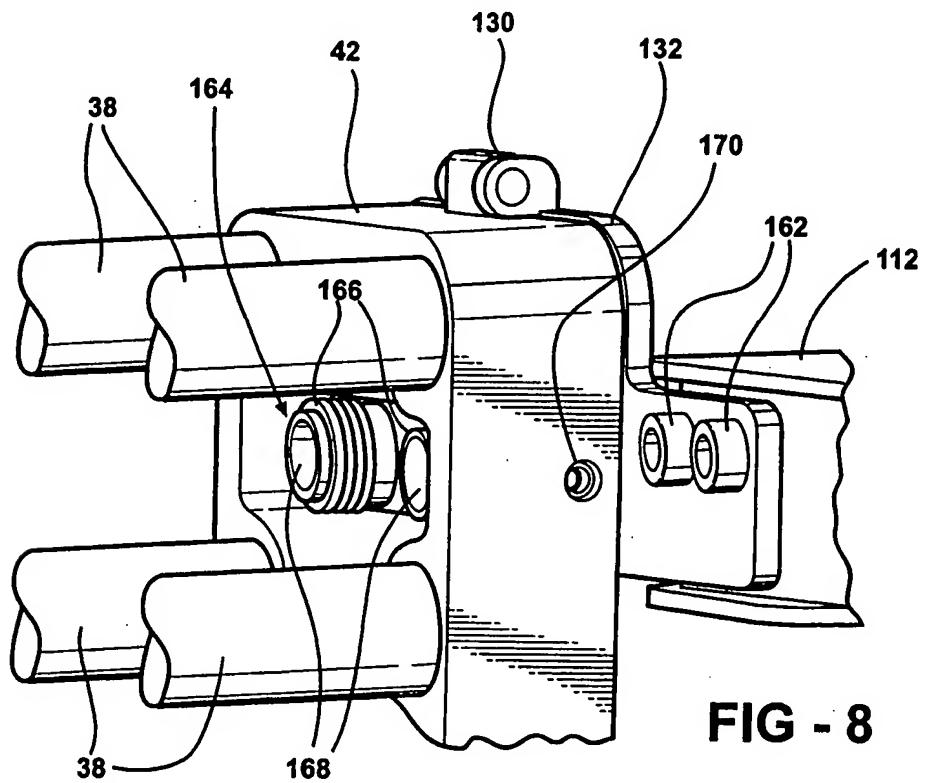


FIG - 8

REPLACEMENT SHEET
ANNOTATED

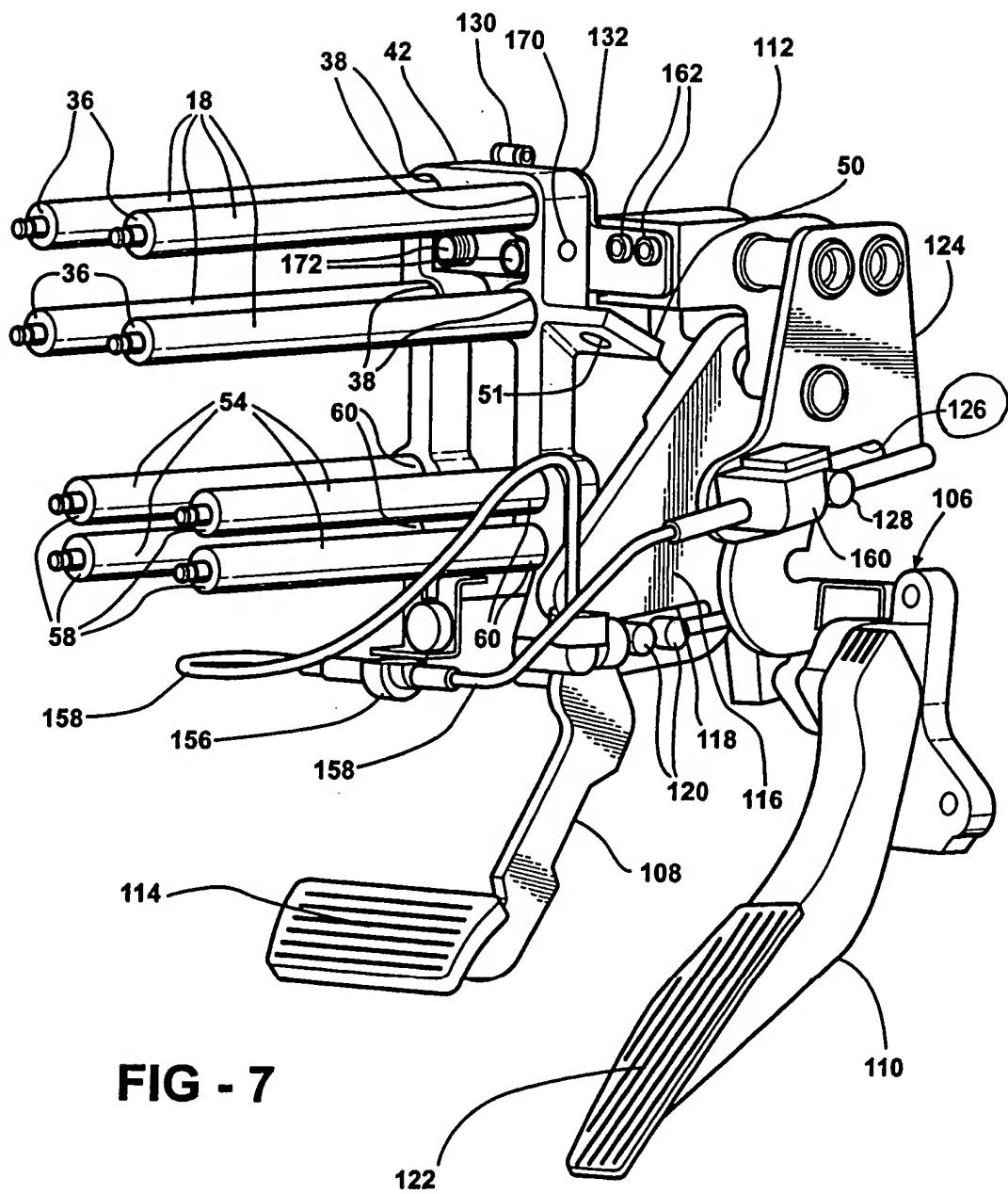


FIG - 7